

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 19-38 are pending in the application, with 19, 24, and 31 being the independent claims. Claim 1 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 19-38 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 1

On page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §101 for claiming the same invention as claimed in U.S. Patent No. 6,509,706 (double patenting). Applicants have cancelled claim 1 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein; thus, this rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

New Claims 19-38

New claims 19-38 are sought to be added. These claims are believed to be patentable over the art of record for reasons similar to claims 1-4 in U.S. Patent No. 6,744,320, of which the present application is a continuation. Consideration and allowance of new claims 19-38 are respectfully requested.

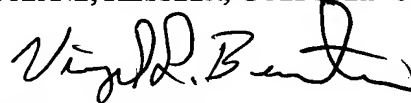
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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